

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /065 W
----- 020874

R 170936Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9027

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12401

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: AQUINO TRIAL

REF: MANILA 12092

1. AS ANTICIPATED REFTTEL, AQUINO TRIAL AUG 16 WAS PRETTY MUCH RERUN OF AUGUST 11 HEARING. AQUINO'S DEFENSE COUNSELS REQUESTED MILITARY TRIBUNAL TO RECONSIDER EARLIER DEFENSE MOTION TO QUASH SUBVERSION CHARGES SINCE NORMALIZATION WITH PRC AND USSR IMPLIEDLY REPEALED ANTI-SUBVERSION LAW. TRIBUNAL WILL TAKE MOTION UNDER ADVISEMENT. CONSTABULARY ANTI-NARCOTICS UNIT DEPUTY CHIEF (CAMU) LTC DOMINGO TESTIFIED HE LED RAID IN PARANAQUE DURING OCT 1972 WHICH UNCOVERED CACHE OF WEAPONS (15 HIGH POWERED GUNS, 4,500 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES) AQUINO HAD SECRETED AT HOME OF FRIEND. WEAPONS WERE APPROPRIATELY DISPLAYED AND PICTURES FRONT PAGED IN AUG 17 "DAILY EXPRESS" AND "TIMES JOURNAL".

2. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT SENATOR DIOKNO, LIKE SENATOR SALONGA (SEE REFTTEL), IS ALSO PREDICTING AQUINO WILL BE FOUND GUILTY AND GIVEN DEATH SENTENCE THUS ALLOWING MARCOS MAXIMUM ROOM FOR MANEUVER IN HIS POST-TRIAL HANDLING OF FORMER SENATOR.

3. NEXT SESSION OF AQUINO TRIAL SCHEDULED FOR AUG 20

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AT WHICH TIME DEFENSE CROSS EXAMINES GENERAL GATAN AND

LTC DOMINGO.

4. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE ANYONE IN MARCOS REGIME SERIOUSLY BELIEVES CHARADE AT FORT BONIFACIO'S HALL OF JUSTICE IS HAVING BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION. "EXPRESS" COLUMNIST VALENCIA, WHOSE ENTIRE COLUMN AUG 15 IS DEVOTED TO CONDEMNATION OF INTERNATIONAL PRESS COVERAGE OF PHILIPPINES, PARTICULARLY AQUINO TRIAL, PERHAPS REFLECTS REGIME'S FRUSTRATION WHEN HE FALLS BACK ON TRIED AND TRUE CONSPIRACY THEORY, "I HAVE A SUSPICION THAT THE CIA EFFORT IS TO BUILD UP NINYO IN THE EYES OF AMERICANS AND THE OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES. WHY?" WHY INDEED? BUT WHEN IN DOUBT, BRING OUT THE OLD RELIABLE WHIPPING BOY.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL REPRESSION, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA12401
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760315-0491
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760847/aaaabojx.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MANILA 12092
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <30 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AQUINO TRIAL
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, RP, (AQUINO, BENIGNO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006